

Mr. Symington had given me. And once Capt. N. D. Riley very kindly, but with some misgivings, wrote a letter to my anti-entomological housemaster, asking that I might come to London by an earlier train than the official school train.

The Brigadier once took me to a meeting of the Entomological Society in Queens Gate. I don't think I understood the lecture, which was on Hemiptera. But I met there Prof. Hale Carpenter of Oxford, who later on showed me a fine exhibition of mimicry that he had arranged in the Hope Department. And I think I just met Prof. Poulton there, who knew my housemaster.

Later, I got interested in *Cimex lectularius*, and once went down to Eltham to see fumigation with Cyanic gas of household goods. It was the first time I ever wore a gas mask, and perhaps the only time, for I was in Australia all through the war. I managed to get a live specimen which I kept at home and fed on my arm. Mother was terrified lest IT escaped and the house got infected. What *would* the neighbours say? Indeed I shudder to think what any of us would have done. But it never did get free, dying a natural death.

What a great body of men those Entomologists were, and how kind to a somewhat tiresome youth. But then Entomologists are like that, and so we pray may they ever be!

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THE DOTTED RUSTIC: *RHYACIA SIMULANS* HUFNAGEL IN KENT. — On the warm and cloudy night of 7th/8th September 1978, a male specimen of this noctuid moth was taken in my garden m.v. trap. This constituted the first confirmed record of this species in Kent. — Dr. I. A. WATKINSON, "Shangarry", 148 The Street, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AL.

[In Britain, *R. simulans* is mainly a species of western and northern distribution, which until this year had never before been known to occur in Kent. Also in 1978, nine *simulans* were taken in Essex, for which county there was apparently only one confirmed record. The 1978 Essex specimens occurred (all in m.v. traps unless otherwise stated) as follows: Bradwell-on-Sea, July 30 (1) (A. J. Dewick); Ingrave near Brentwood, July 30 (1), 31 (1), August 3 (1) (A. P. McClenaghan); July 31 (1), September 6 (1) (K. Grimwood *per* I. McClenaghan); Little Baddow, Chelmsford, August 17 (one at buddleja), 19 (1) (G. A. Pyman); Thunderslea, September 10 (one in a water butt) (D. G. Down). I had the opportunity of seeing the Watkinson and McClenaghan specimens and noticed that they were rather more dark than some from Gloucestershire (taken by A. Richardson) with which I was able to compare them, so one wonders if they were of a different — perhaps Continental — origin. — J. M. C.-H.]